

DOMESTIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2005

PRESENT:

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CO-CHAIRS:

Hon. Peter Hershberger, Co-Chair
Hon. Karen Johnson, Co-Chair

MEMBERS:

- Hon. Karen Adam
- Lucille Antone-Morago
- Theresa Barrett for Janet Scheiderer
- Hon. Tim Bee
- Hon. Andy Biggs
- Hon. David Bradley
- Hon. Bill Brotherton
- Jodi Brown
- Sidney Buckman
- Daniel Cartegena
- William Fabricius
- Hon. Beverly Frame
- Hon. Gabrielle Giffords
- Terrill J. Haugen
- Linda Leatherman
- Ella Maley
- Hon. Debbie McCune-Davis
- Jay Mount
- Ellen Seaborne
- Russell Smolden
- Judy Walruff
- Wanda Weber
- David Weinstock
- Dale Wiebusch
- Thomas Wing
- Steve Wolfson
- Brian Yee

STAFF:

Megan Hunter
Annette Mariani

Administrative Office of the Courts
Administrative Office of the Courts

GUESTS:

Manuel Cota
Ivo Ortiz
Megan Scott for Herschella Horton

Luv Social Services, Inc.
Father's Luv/Barrio Centro
DES, Legislative Services

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:23 a.m. by Representative Hershberger without a quorum present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New member, Dale Wiebusch from the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, was introduced. He was appointed by Senate President Bennett to serve in the position of representative of a statewide coalition against domestic violence. Mr. Wiebusch replaces former member, Bill Hart.

The minutes will not be considered until a quorum is reached. If a quorum is not reached, the July minutes will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Members broke from the regular meeting at 10:30 a.m. and gathered in workgroups to discuss their respective issues.

WORKGROUP REPORTS/UPDATES/DISCUSSION

SUBSTANTIVE LAW – COMMISSIONER KAREN ADAM

Commissioner Adam reported for the Substantive Law Workgroup. The group discussed and will continue working on the following in future meetings:

- Parent Education in Child Support Cases. Conform statute to make parent education “discretionary” in child support cases. In IV-D child support cases, most parents do not attend classes and many courts do not apply statutory consequences when they do not attend. The proposed amendment would track current practice.
- Parenting Coordinator Terminology. Add definition of parenting coordinator in statute to match the proposed Rules of Procedures in Domestic Relations cases that may be adopted as early as January 2006.
- Paternity Establishment. Begin discussing a way to clean up the processes between vital records and the courts. Statute is not being followed in many cases.

EDUCATION & PREVENTION – WANDA WEBER

Wanda Weber reported that the group discussed the education program for children that is being piloted in Maricopa County in collaboration with ASU’s Prevention Research Center and Dr. Irwin Sandler. The group also discussed marriage education and now has plans to contact the Marriage and Relationship Skills Commission to gather information and/or collaborate. They also discussed funding issues and will report at the next meeting.

CREDIT ISSUES WORKGROUP – MEGAN HUNTER

Megan Hunter reported in Ellen Seaborne’s absence. The workgroup met earlier today and discussed the priorities outlined by the full DR Committee in July. They are amending the marriage education proposal as directed by DRC. The proposal tracks the parent education statutory scheme by authorizing the Administrative Office of the Courts to administer the

program, set minimum standards and develop a video and/or web-based program. The proposal will include a request for an appropriation.

The proposal will include a requirement that pre-nuptial agreements be recorded with the Secretary of State and also require that entity to set up and maintain a statewide registry and set any fees accordingly.

INTEGRATE FAMILY COURT – MEGAN HUNTER

Megan Hunter reported in Ellen Seaborne's absence. The IFC workgroup will meet immediately following this meeting today.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, September 22, 2005. from 10:00 – 2:00 pm, Arizona Courts Building, 1501 W. Washington, Phoenix – Conference Room 345A/B.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.